

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To:	<p>All Providers Managed Care Plans CSD Regional Administrators HCS Regional Administrators CSO Administrators Regional Support Networks</p>	<p>Memorandum No. 03-15 MAA Issued: June 12, 2003</p> <p>For further information, call: 1-800-562-6188</p>
From:	<p>Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary Medical Assistance Administration</p>	
Subject:	<p>Medically Indigent (MI) Program To Be Discontinued</p>	

Effective for claims with dates of service after June 30, 2003, the Medically Indigent (MI) program is discontinued.

Why is the MI Program being discontinued?

Effective for claims with dates of service after June 30, 2003, the Washington State Legislature has discontinued the MI program. The MI program is funded with state dollars and provides hospital, nursing facility, and ambulance services for clients with an emergent medical condition who do not qualify for other programs. Effective July 1, 2003, WAC 388-438-0100, which regulates the MI program, is repealed by emergency order.

Which clients are affected by this change and have these clients been notified?

Clients affected by this change have “**MIP-EMER Hospital Only – No out-of-state care**” listed on their DSHS Medical ID cards. MAA sent a flyer to active MI clients informing them that their coverage ends June 30, 2003.

Clients who meet program requirements may continue to receive coverage under the MI program through June 30, 2003.

What about inpatient hospital services for MI clients?

Claims that include a hospital admit prior July 1, 2003, and a discharge date of July 1, 2003, or after will be denied. Providers will have to resubmit for the portion of the claim that is prior to July 1, 2003. MAA will pay only for eligible days through June 30, 2003.

EXCEPTION For inpatient hospital claims reimbursed through the Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG's) you must bill the entire stay. MAA will pro-rate the DRG payment.

What about voluntary inpatient psychiatric hospital services?

The Mental Health Division (MHD) created the Psychiatric Indigent Inpatient (PII) program to ensure eligible clients receive continued psychiatric inpatient hospital services. Please refer to Numbered Memorandum 03-16 MAA for further information. To obtain this document electronically, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link, Numbered Memorandums, Year 2003).

What about nursing facility care for MI clients?

Home and Community Services (HCS) will no longer authorize nursing facility care for MI clients for dates of service after June 30, 2003. Nursing facility billing will be handled in the usual manner for dates of service through June 30, 2003, but MAA will not pay for nursing facility care under the MI program for dates of service after June 30, 2003.

What if the client is currently approved under the MI program beyond June 30, 2003?

MAA will not pay for services under the MI program for dates of service beyond June 30, 2003. DSHS is shortening all MI certifications to end by June 30, 2003. If a client presents a letter or Medical ID Card that approves services under the MI program beyond June 30, 2003, please contact the Medical Assistance Customer Service Center (MACSC) at 1-800-562-6188.

Providers who usually submit applications for care

- Hospitals can continue to submit applications for hospital care. The financial worker who reviews your case will look at eligibility for all possible programs. If the MI program is the only program available to the client, MAA will pay for services only through June 30, 2003. All applications for MI retroactive coverage for dates of service prior to July 1, 2003, must be received by September 30, 2003.
- Nursing facilities may continue to submit applications for nursing facility care and the financial worker who reviews the case will look at eligibility for all possible programs. The MI program will not be available to pay for services after June 30, 2003.